

Public Page

**Emerging Padding and Related Pipeline-Construction Practices
Agreement DTRS56-03-T-0005
2nd Quarterly Status Report
Period October 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003
Contractor: Battelle**

The objective of this planned two-year project is to quantify the merits of modifications to existing construction practices and emerging practices related to pipeline padding. The work will assist the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) in determining the value of such construction practices when made in the context of performance-based inspection or re-inspection plans in response to pending pipeline safety legislation. The project will complement an INGAA funded program. The combined effort will involve field evaluation of these emerging approaches for benching pipelines and for bedding and padding in areas where native soils contain rock and other debris that could damage the pipeline or degrade its integrity over time. Benchmarks for comparison will cover a variety of soil types, and existing as well as emerging practices, to provide a basis to assess improvements in contrast to current practices.

To date, three construction sites have been visited and the field measurement test plan implemented at each. These visits were completed in late fall of CY 03. Options for additional visits are being developed, which will occur if the results from visits now completed prove adequate to meet the project's needs.

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